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CATECHISM

OF

Universal History.

New-York:

PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL WOOD & SONS,

NO. 261, PEARL-STREET;

And Samuel W. Wood & Co. No. 912, Market-street

Baltimore.





CATECHISM

OF

Universal History.

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

BY WILLIAM MAJOR, LL. D.

AUTHOR OF TRAVELS, AND MANY
OTHER POPULAR WORKS.

With Alterations and Improvements.

New-York :

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PREFACE.



HISTORY, which may be called the eye of retrospective knowledge, and the mirror reflecting past ages, is so essentially necessary in a system of liberal education, that it requires no apology for the following attempt, which is intended solely as an easy introduction to the various extensive works which have been published on this valuable science.

To furnish even a sketch of *Universal History*, within the limits prescribed, is as much as can be expected; and indeed was attended with more trouble than if ampler scope had been allowed. Compression is as difficult a task as any an author has to undergo; yet it is indispensable for tender minds, and for the use of schools in general; where much is to be learned, one branch of knowledge must not occupy a disproportionate space to the rest, nor exclude what may be thought of equal or superior importance.

WILLIAM MAJOR.

CATECHISM

OF

Universal History, &c.



Definitions, &c.

1. Q. WHAT is meant by History ?

A. In the general sense of the word, it signifies a faithful relation of facts and events, in chronological order.

2. Q. Is not the knowledge of History indispensably necessary ?

A. As it relates to whatever has passed in the world, and enables us to form our opinions, or to regulate our actions from the conduct of those that have gone before us ; no study can be more instructive or useful.

3. Q. How is history divided ?

A. Considered with respect to the nature of its subjects, it may be divided into *general* and *particular* ; with respect to time, into *ancient* and *modern*.

4. Q. What is ancient history ?

A. It commences with the creation of the world, and is usually extended to the reign of Charlemagne, in the year 800.

5. Q. What is modern history ?

A. It begins with the year 800, and reaches down to the present times.

6. Q. But are there no other divisions of history ?

A. Yes. History is very commonly considered as being *sacred* or *profane*.

7. Q. What is sacred history ?

A. It is the history of religion before the birth of Jesus Christ, and is to be found only in the Bible : *ecclesiastical* history, which is certainly a branch of sacred, treats of the establishment of the Christian religion, and comprehends the lives, characters,

and conduct of those who have promoted or opposed the doctrines of our Saviour.

8. Q. What is profane history ?

A. It includes the histories of all nations which are not written by inspired writers, and is subdivided into ancient and modern; which have already been explained.



CHAP. I.

Sacred History.

1. Q. What history is most valuable ?

A. Sacred history.

2. Q. Whence is the knowledge of sacred history derived ?

A. From the Scriptures, which teach us that there is but one God who is eternal, and that all things are the work of his hands.

3. Q. When was the world created ?

A. About 4004 years before the birth of Christ, and in the space of six days ; when

God hallowed the seventh, and made it a day of religious rest.

4. Q. What were the names of the first man and woman ?

A. Adam and Eve ; who, disobeying the positive command of their Maker, entailed death and misery on all their posterity.

5. Q. Was there not something very remarkable in the lives of the first men ?

A. Their longevity : for we are told that most of them lived from 8 to 900 years. In consequence of this, probably, they became very wicked and depraved.

6. Q. Did not God punish them for their sins ?

A. He punished them by a general deluge, which took place 1656 years after the creation, and 2348 before Christ, and which destroyed all mankind, except Noah and his family, who were saved in an ark built by God's command, and with them two of every kind of living creatures.

7. Q. How many sons had Noah ?

A. Three ; Shem, Ham, and Japheth, among whom all the world was divided. From Shem the Hebrews were descended : Ham was worshipped by the Egyptians ; and the posterity of Japheth peopled the greatest part of the west.

8. Q. When did the descendants of Noah begin to disperse ?

A. On the confusion of tongues, which took place at the building of the tower of Babel, as a punishment for the arrogance of men, who thought of equalling themselves with the Supreme.

9. Q. What important event happened next ?

A. The calling of Abraham, who was ordered to leave his kindred and country, and to go to the land of Canaan, in order that the worship of the one true God, might be preserved among men, who had already become grossly corrupted.

10. Q. Did the posterity of Abraham continue long in the land of Canaan ?

A. No. A famine prevailing in the land, the patriarchs, the sons of Jacob, who was the son of Abraham, migrated with their families into Egypt, where their brother Joseph had gone before, having been sold by them out of envy.

11. Q. What happened to the descendants of Abraham in Egypt?

A. After a time, they became very numerous, and this exciting the jealousy of the rulers of the country, orders were given to destroy every male among them at its birth; but Moses being providentially saved by the daughter of Pharaoh, and brought up in all the learning of Egypt, was commissioned by God to bring his people out of bondage, and reinstate them in the land of Canaan.

12. Q. Did Moses accomplish this object?

A. "With mighty power and with a stretched out arm," God delivered the Israelites by the hand of his servant Moses, who, by the same divine authority, gave them

laws and ordinances ; and this, which was called the Mosaic dispensation, was to continue till it was set aside by the Christian, or the appearance of Christ in the flesh.

13. Q. Did the Jews always possess the knowledge of the one true God ?

A. Though they frequently fell into idolatry, a portion among them always preserved the sublime truths that had been delivered to their forefathers ; a magnificent temple was erected at Jerusalem by Solomon, one of the kings of the Jews ; and in it the holy ceremonies were performed, by a distinct order of priests, the posterity of Aaron, who were set apart for the service of God.

14. Q. Were not the Jews a favoured people ?

A. Though they often provoked God, he did not leave them without a witness of himself, sending them a succession of prophets, who foretold remote events, and announced in terms at first mysterious, but gradually more clear, the future birth of a Messiah,

who was to give them a new and more perfect law, and to abolish the rites and ceremonies established by Moses.

15. Q. When was the Messiah predicted to appear?

A. After the tribe of Judah had lost its authority, and the nation had become subject to the Romans; and this accordingly took place in the reign of Augustus, and during a period of profound peace, a proper season for the "Prince of Peace" to appear.

16. Q. Did not miracles accompany and follow the birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah?

A. Every circumstance attending this Divine Personage, who was God and man, was truly miraculous; but though the wise men came from the East to worship him, his countrymen in general seem to have paid very little regard to his appearance.

17. Q. When did the public life of Jesus Christ commence ?

A. Till about his thirtieth year, he had lived with his reputed parents, Joseph and Mary ; but at this age he entered on his ministry, which lasted only to his thirty-third year.

18. Q. What were the principal acts of the public life of our Saviour, and the doctrines he taught ?

A. He first chose twelve disciples from among the most humble and ignorant of the people, who accompanied him in his labours of love, and imbibed the doctrines which he taught ; namely, that he was the true Son of God ; that he came to call sinners to repentance ; that the dead must rise again, and be judged according to the works done in the body ; and that they who believe in his Name and obey his precepts, shall be everlastingly happy. In a word, the purity of his life corresponded with the

purity of his doctrine, and at last he sealed his testimony with his blood.

19. Q. What happened after his death ?

A. On the third day he rose again, and after a stay of forty days on earth, during which he several times conversed with his apostles, instructing them how to act, he ascended into heaven, and now sitteth at the right hand of God, "making intercession for us."

20. Q. How was the Christian religion afterwards propagated ?

A. The apostles having received the Holy Ghost, dispersed abroad to spread the Gospel of Christ ; and by miracles confirmed the truth of their mission. The religion of Jesus thus rapidly spread over the world, and persecutions served only to establish it deep in the hearts of mankind.

21. Q. Are there not other religions ?

A. Many, but they may all be referred to the Jewish, the Mahometan, and Paganism. Christianity, however, alone, is cal-

culated to promote our best interests here, and our eternal happiness hereafter.



CHAP. II.

PROFANE HISTORY.

ANCIENT.

Egypt.

1. Q. What was the first people that formed a regular government ?

A. The Egyptians, whose history goes back almost to the Deluge.

2. Q. Who was the first king of this country ?

A. Menes, probably the Misraim of Scripture, who is said to have been the inventor of arts, and the civilizer of a large portion of the Eastern world. His first wife was Isis, long worshipped as a divinity.

3. Q. What happened on the death of Menes ?

A. Egypt was divided into four dynasties. Thebes, Thin, Memphis, and Tanais.

4. Q. What was the situation of Egypt after this ?

A. Though it had obtained some degree of civilization, under a number of petty sovereigns, called shepherd-kings, it relapsed into barbarism, which continued till the reign of Sesostris, who united the several principalities into one kingdom ; and by policy and conquest, rendered himself respected at home and abroad.

5. Q. Were not the princes of the house of Pharaoh a long time kings of Egypt ?

A. They possessed the throne till Cambyses, king of Persia, conquered that country, about 525 years before Christ ; and under them the Egyptians were the most polished people in the world, and made the greatest proficiency in learning and science.

6. Q. Mention some particulars for which the Egyptians were remarkable.

A. Their respect for their ancestors induced them to embalm their dead, hence the mummies still to be met with ; and in order that their kings might govern wisely and justly, they sat in judgment on their lives after their death. They were great astronomers, mathematicians, and mechanics ; and their immense pyramids, probably the sepulchral monuments of their kings, are still the wonder of the world.

7. Q. How long did Egypt continue under the power of Persia ?

A. Till the Persian empire was conquered by Alexander the Great ; after whose death it again became independent under the Ptolemies.

8. Q. When was Egypt reduced to the state of a Roman province ?

A. On the death of Cleopatra, the wife and sister of Ptolemy Dionysius, the last king, about thirty years before the Christian era.

9. Q. How long did this country remain under the dominion of the Romans ?

A. About 700 years ; at the expiration of which it was conquered by the Saracens. In 1517, the Turks made themselves masters of it, who suffered the Mamelukes to govern it as dependent on the Ottoman empire. The French attempted to reduce it in 1801 ; but were driven out by the English, under Sir Sidney Smith.

10. Q. Is nothing known respecting the Ethiopians, whose country lies beyond Egypt ?

A. They are supposed to have been originally a colony of the Egyptians ; but their numbers, their strength, and their ferocity, soon made and kept them independent, and insulated from the rest of the world.

Empire of Assyria.

11. Q. Which was the most ancient empire ?

A. That of Assyria, so named from Ashur, the second son of Shem.

12. Q. Who succeeded Ashur ?

A. Ninus, who seizing on Chaldea and Babylon, united them to his paternal dominions ; he is also said to have built the city of Nineveh, whose circumference was sixty miles, and to have conquered Persia, Egypt, and Media.

13. Q. Who was his successor ?

A. His widow, the famous Semiramis, a woman of masculine courage and understanding, who enlarged the city of Babylon, surrounding it with a wall 300 feet high.

14. Q. Did the fortune of her family continue long ?

A. No. Her son and successor, Ninyas, a weak and dissolute prince, lost the Medes, the Babylonians and the Persians, who revolted from his power ?

15. Q. When did the empire of Assyria end ?

A. Under Sardanapalus, in whose reign

the revolted nations attacked the empire on all sides ; and the effeminate monarch perceiving his affairs desperate, collected all his wealth into a pile in his palace, and setting fire to it with his own hand, perished with his family in the conflagration. This happened 626 years before Christ, after the Assyrian empire had lasted more than 1000 years.

Empire of Persia.

16. Q. Who was the founder of the Persian empire ?

A. Cyrus the Great, about 600 years before the birth of Christ.

17. Q. Was this empire very powerful ?

A. At its height it included India, Assyria, Media, Persia, and other adjacent countries.

18. Q. Who succeeded Cyrus ?

A. His son Cambyses, the Artaxerxes of Scripture, who added Egypt to his empire.

19. Q. By whom was Cambyses succeeded ?

A. By Darius Hystaspes ; who, called from private life to a throne, evinced a good disposition for governing ; but the luxury of his people, and their consequent effeminacy, prevented him from accomplishing his wishes.

20. Q. Who next ascended the throne ?

A. His son Xerxes ; who, bent on the conquest of Greece, marched an immense army into that country ; but being foiled in his attempts, he was at last murdered by his own subjects.

21. Q. Did his successors perform any thing remarkable ?

A. His son Xerxes Longimanus is famed for protecting the Jews, and restoring them to their own country ; but during several succeeding reigns, we find only turbulence and murder, till at last Darius Codamannus was placed on the throne by the intrigues of Bagoas, the eunuch, a son of Ochus III.

22. Q. Was this emperor more fortunate?

A. No. In the second year of his reign he was attacked by Alexander the Great; and losing the three battles of Granicus, Cilicia, and Arbela, he was obliged to submit to the conqueror; when the empire of the Persians was transferred to the Greeks, after it had continued about 200 years, and 330 years before the coming of Christ.

23. Q. Are there no other great empires mentioned in ancient history?

A. That of the Babylonians and Medes; but they became incorporated in the other two empires, of which some account has been given, and therefore, are of less importance.

Greeks and Macedonians.

24. Q. Did not the Greeks carry their history very high?

A. So high that it is lost in fable. Where heroes are transformed into gods, and immortalized by their poets, it is vain to look

for sober history. Before the siege of Troy, truth is mixed with fiction.

25. Q. Which was the most ancient kingdom of Greece ?

A. Sicyon, whose first king is believed to be contemporary with Noah.

26. Q. When was the regal government established in Argos ?

A. About 1856 years before Christ, by Inachus, one of whose successors transferred the seat of government to Mycenæ.

27. Q. What happened to the kingdom of Argos in the sequel ?

A. The Heraclidæ, or descendants of Hercules, took possession of it, and of all the Peloponnesus.

28. Q. At what time, and by whom, was the kingdom of Athens founded ?

A. About 1600 years before Christ, by Cecrops, an Egyptian, who carried thither a colony from the banks of the Nile. About the same time Cadmus arrived in Bœotia, where he founded Thebes.

29. Q. How long did the regal government subsist at Athens ?

A. Nearly 500 years. Its last king was Codrus, who sacrificed his life for the welfare of his country ; on which, the Athenians chose nine magistrates, called Archons, out of the principal persons of the city. Their office, which at first was hereditary, afterwards underwent several changes, and at last became annual.

30. Q. Were these changes brought about quietly ?

A. No. The state was convulsed by them ; when Draco, who was elevated to the archonship 624 years before the Christian era, endeavoured by the extreme severity of his laws, which were said “to be written in blood,” to repress disorders. About thirty years afterwards, Solon, one of the wisest and best of men, established a milder and more equitable system of jurisprudence.

31. Q. Was not the republican form of government subverted at Athens ?

A. It was by Pisistratus, who usurped the supreme authority, and which he and his posterity retained during the space of fifty years.

32. Q. What was the next great revolution?

A. By the unfortunate issue of the Peloponnesian war, Athens sunk under the power of the Spartans, who imposed thirty tyrants on the Athenians, about 400 years before Christ.

33. Q. By whom were the Athenians ultimately subdued?

A. By Philip, king of Macedon; but by the assistance of the Romans, they afterwards, for a short time, recovered their liberties, though they were destined in the end to be swallowed up by that victorious nation.

34. Q. Who founded the kingdom of Sparta?

A. Lælex, who made the Spartan or Lacedæmonian government monarchical.

35. Q. Who founded the other Grecian states ?

A. Perseus built the city of Mycenæ, and Pelops, that of Elis.

36. Q. What occasioned the Trojan war ?

A. The rape of Helen, wife of Menelaus, by Paris, son of Priam, king of Troy ; which city was reduced to ashes 1184 years before Christ, after standing a ten year's siege.

37. Q. Who was the most celebrated legislator of the Spartans ?

A. Lycurgus, who abridged the regal power, by the institution of a senate. About 130 years after his demise, five Ephori were annually elected by the people, with extensive powers to curb the senate.

38. Q. To whom did the Lacedemonians submit ?

A. Sparta, with the other Grecian states, fell first under the power of the Macedonians, and at last under the Romans.

39. Q. Who were the seven wise men of Greece ?

A. Solon, the Athenian ; Bias, of Prienne ; Chilo, of Lacedemonia ; Cleobulos, of Lindo ; Thales, the Milesian ; Pittacus, of Mytilene ; and Periander, tyrant of Corinth.

40. Q. Who founded the kingdom of Macedon ?

A. Caranus an Argive ; but it was of inferior rank, till Philip conquering all Greece in the battle of Cheronea, subjected all its states to his dominion.

41. Q. Was the Macedonian power of long duration ?

A. Alexander the Great, the son of Philip, subduing Persia and India, carried the Macedonian power to the highest pitch of elevation ; but dying of a debauch at Babylon, in the thirty-third year of his age, and the thirteenth of his reign, his dominions and conquests were divided among four of his greatest generals, namely, Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Cassander, and Seleucus. Macedon, however, continued an independent kingdom, till it was reduced to a Roman province, 168 years before Christ.

The Romans.

42. Q. From whom did the Romans receive their origin?

A. From Romulus, who founded Rome 753 years before Christ, and peopled it with vagabonds, slaves, and criminals of the male sex only, in consequence of which, they made war on the Sabines, and carried off their women.

43. Q. Did the kingly power continue long at Rome?

A. Through seven reigns, but the only distinguished king, except Romulus, was Numa, who introduced laws and religion.

44. Q. What put an end to the regal authority?

A. The dishonour of Lucretia, a Roman matron, by Brutus, the son of Tarquin, the last king of Rome, which irritated the people to such a degree, that they drove out the whole family.

45. Q. What happened on the expulsion of the kings?

A. A republican form of government was established, under two magistrates, annually elected, called **Consuls**, whose office consisted in superintending the rites of religion, in controlling the finances, in levying and commanding armies, and in presiding at public assemblies.

46. **Q.** Had not the Romans occasionally an officer of still higher authority ?

A. In periods of imminent danger, they chose a **Dictator**, whom they invested with a temporary despotism.

47. **Q.** Was there not a description of magistrates called **Tribunes of the People** ?

A. The people being dissatisfied with their share in the government, were allowed to choose five magistrates, called **Tribunes**, whose number was afterwards increased to ten, and whose office consisted in defending the oppressed, and in bringing the enemies of the people to justice.

48. **Q.** Who were the **Decemviri** ?

A. They were ten persons elected for the

institution of new laws, and invested with absolute power for one year. Appius Claudius, one of the number, attempted to render the office perpetual; but the people punished the meditated usurpation, and restored the consular and tribunitian power, which had been set aside under the Decemviri.

49. Q. Did not the Gauls plunder Rome?

A. In the year of the city 394, the Gauls, under their leader Brennus, invaded Italy, took and plundered Rome, and afterwards laid it in ashes.

50. Q. Were not the Romans, however, gradually extending their power?

A. Rome had scarcely risen from its ashes, when the people subdued many of the neighbouring nations; and in less than 500 years from its foundation by Romulus, they made themselves masters of all Italy.

51. Q. Who were the Carthaginians?

A. A powerful and very commercial people on the coast of Africa, where Tunis now

lies, who became the rivals of Rome, and therefore were regarded as enemies.

52. Q. What occasioned the first Punic, or Carthaginian war?

A. The Carthaginians having granted assistance to the enemies of Rome, war was declared against them, and twice a peace having been made and broken between the rival states, in the third war, Carthage was plundered and levelled with the ground, about 146 years before Christ, when the Roman empire extended over Greece, Africa, Syria, and all the kingdoms of Asia Minor, exclusive of Europe.

53. Q. How long did the republican form of government continue after this?

A. Pompey and Cæsar having both obtained the highest dignities, and neither being willing to own a superior, Cæsar who had been victorious in Gaul and Britain, being made dictator, set out in pursuit of his rival, Pompey, who was attended by the senate and consuls; and meeting him in the

plains of Pharsalia, in Thessaly, the conflict began; when Cæsar proving victorious, became master of the liberties of Rome, 43 years before the birth of Christ.

54. Q. Did the Romans tamely submit to his power?

A. All opposition was ineffectual. Cæsar made himself absolute; but at last was assassinated in the Senate-house by the machinations of Brutus and Cassius.

55. Q. Did the Romans on this recover their former liberties by the death of Cæsar?

A. No. Octavius his nephew, having got rid of every competitor, had the titles of Emperor and Augustus conferred on him by the senate, and became sole master of the Roman empire, 31 years before Christ.

56. Q. Was not Augustus a great and powerful prince?

A. By his address and the arts of insinuation, he rendered despotism supportable to the Romans; and extended the empire from

the Rhine and the Danube on the north, to the Euphrates on the east ; and from the Atlantic Ocean on the west, to the deserts of Arabia and Africa on the south. In this reign lived the most illustrious of the Roman classical writers.

57. Q. By whom was Augustus succeeded ?

A. His immediate successor was Tiberius, a man infamous for every vice ; then Caius Caligula assumed the purple, who in mockery of the Roman people, made his horse consul : to Caligula, who was assassinated, succeeded Claudius, who made an expedition into Britain ; but at last was poisoned by the empress Agrippina, in order that the diadem might descend to her son, the execrable Nero, one of the most cruel tyrants that ever disgraced or degraded human nature ; who was finally his own executioner.

58. Q. Who were the successors of Nero ?

A. First, Galba, who on account of his

cruelty and injustice was assassinated ; then Otho, who reigned only three months ; and, thirdly, Vitellus, whose reign was likewise very short ; and who was succeeded by Vespasian, called to rule in advanced age, in compliment to his distinguished merit.

59. Q. To whom did Vespasian leave the empire ?

A. To his son Titus, “ the delight of mankind,” of whom it was said, that it had been good for the Romans if he had never been born, or rather that he had never died. Titus was succeeded by his brother Domitian, a monster of cruelty and vice. He was the last of the *twelve* Cæsars, as they are called.

60. Q. Did the imperial power end here ?

A. No. Nerva received the purple from the assassins of Domitian, who adopted Trajan, a prince possessed of every quality that could adorn a throne. His kinsman Adrian was the successor of Trajan, who adopted the philosophic Antoninus, and who

left the crown to Marcus Aurelius, his son-in-law; but afterwards Commodus, his own son, assumed the purple, only to show how unworthy he was of elevated rank. He was followed by Pertinax, who rose by his virtues alone.

61. Q. What happened on the death of Pertinax?

A. The Prætorian bands, or imperial guards, now took upon them to expose the empire to sale, and it was purchased by Severus. It would be uninteresting to go through the whole catalogue of emperors, who rose or fell as the soldiers were inclined. It may be proper, however to particularize Dioclesian, who divided the imperial dominions into four parts, over which presided two emperors and two Cæsars; and Constantine the Great, who was born in Britain, and who removed the seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium, to which he gave the name of Constantinople.

62. Q. Was not the Roman empire final-

ly divided into two, the eastern and the western?

A. It was by Theodosius; whose son Arcadius reigned in the east, as his son Honorius did in the west.

63. Q. How long after this did the empires last?

A. The barbarians pressing the western on all sides, and the Romans being sunk into effeminacy, an end was put to it by the Goths and Huns, in the reign of Augustulus, who was compelled to resign the imperial dignity, in the year of Christ 476. The eastern empire, however, continued till 1453, when Constantinople was taken by Mahomet II. the Sultan of Turkey, and the Roman empire and people lost their names. Since that time, the popes, have had both temporal and spiritual power in Rome, and the Turks in Constantinople; though it is probable that the dominion of the latter is likewise approaching its close.

CHAP. III.

PROFANE HISTORY.

MODERN.

The Germanic Empire.

1. Q. What kingdoms or states were formed on the extinction of the Roman power in the west?

A. It is impossible to enumerate all the changes that took place. Amidst dark ages and barbarous nations, history records little else than ignorance and crimes.

2. Q. Who affected to be the representatives of the ancient Romans?

A. The emperors of Germany, whose eldest son, or heir, was usually elected king of the Romans, as a preliminary step to his succession to the empire.

3. Q. But were there not many independent states in Germany?

A. Before the late subversion, Germany

contained not fewer than 300 sovereign princes, independent in their own dominions, but forming one political body, which recognised the emperor as its head.

4. Q. By whom was the emperor of Germany formerly elected?

A. By six secular and three ecclesiastical princes.

5. Q. From whom do the present imperial family derive their origin?

A. From Rodolph, count of Hapsburg, who, by his bravery and address, added several extensive countries to the empire, and formed a plan of aggrandizement, which his family long pursued.

6. Q. Who was the first emperor, after the dignity became elective?

A. Conrade, count of Franconia, who died 919, and was succeeded by Henry, surnamed the Fowler, a prince of considerable talents; and who again was succeeded by his son Otho I. the most powerful prince of his age, and justly named the Great.

7. Q. Have not more than one emperor obtained the title of Great?

A. Yes. Henry IV. was likewise complimented with this addition. He ascended the throne in 1056, when only an infant, and had to maintain a perpetual struggle with the popes, at that time the terror and the scourge of princes, and to whom his son Henry V. disgracefully surrendered the right of investiture.

8. Q. By whom was Henry V. succeeded?

A. By Lothario, duke of Saxe Suplembourg; but in the reign of his successor, Conrade III. the sovereignty was disputed by the dukes of Bavaria, whose family name was Guelph, while the emperor's general was a native of Heighibelin; and this circumstance gave rise to the Guelphs and Ghibellines, the former of which espoused the interest of the pope, the latter of the emperor.

9. Q. Did not Frederick Barbarossa reign about this time?

A. He followed Conrade III. to whom he was nephew, and justified the choice that had been made of him. His son Henry VI. imitated his example ; but Frederick II. the next emperor, lost all the acquisitions of his predecessors, and submitted to the influence of the pope. In 1338, however, the *Pragmatic Sanction* was established, which declared that the pope had no right to interfere in the election of an emperor.

10. Q. When did the Netherlands become a part of the empire ?

A. In the reign of Maximilian I. about which time, Germany was divided into Circles.

11. Q. By whom was Maximilian succeeded ?

A. By Charles V. the most illustrious of all the emperors of Germany, and whose power extended over both hemispheres ; but becoming disgusted with the world, he resigned the empire to his brother Ferdinand, and the kingdom of Spain to his son Philip II.

12. Q. What remarkable events happened in the reign of Leopold I. ?

A. He concluded the peace of Westphalia, and saw his capital Vienna, which had been besieged by the rebellious Hungarians, aided by the Turks, relieved by the courage of Sobieski, king of Poland. His son and successor, Joseph I. who mounted the imperial throne in 1705, in conjunction with the allies, carried on a successful war against France.

13. Q. What happened after the death of Charles VI. ?

A. This emperor having no male issue, the Austrian dominions devolved on Maria Theresa, whose husband, Francis I. grand duke of Tuscany, was finally raised to the imperial dignity, after the death of Charles VII. elector of Bavaria, who had intermediately swayed the sceptre.

14. Q. Who succeeded Francis I. ?

A. Joseph II. a wise and benevolent prince, on whose death, without issue, his

brother Leopold II. duke of Tuscany, was elevated to the imperial dignity, in 1790; and in less than two years, left the throne to his son Francis II.

15. Q. Has not the reign of this emperor been very eventful?

A. Beyond any thing that can be named in the annals of Germany. Embarking early in the confederacy against France, and being unsuccessful, by the treaty of Campo Formio, he was obliged to cede the Netherlands to that power. The war being again renewed with no better success, was terminated by the peace of Luneville. Another coalition was formed to resist the insatiate ambition of Bonaparte, and fortune being still in the favour of that general, the emperor was obliged to conclude the treaty of Presburg, and to make many fresh sacrifices. Again the flame of war spread over the plains of Germany, and new victories attended the French.

16. Q. Is there no other circumstance connected with this reign that is worthy of remark ?

A. Bonaparte obliged Francis I. to renounce the dignity of emperor of Germany, and he is now only emperor of Austria ; (by the confederation of the Rhine, Bonaparte enjoyed more power over the states, than ever belonged to their legitimate emperors.)

France.

17. Q. What was the ancient name of France ?

A. Gaul ; and it received the name of France from the Franks, a German tribe, who, under Clovis, established the French monarchy. Clovis died in 511.

18. Q. What happened on his death ?

A. A civil war arose between his sons, his successors, who could not agree in their division of the kingdom. And at length Pepin, mayor of the palace, assumed the sovereignty, and transmitted it to posterity.

19. Q. Who was his successor ?

A. Charlemagne, who, on the demise of his brother Carloman, became sole monarch of France ; and during a long and illustrious reign of 45 years, extended his dominion over the greatest part of Europe, and was crowned at Rome in 800.

20. Q. Did not Charlemagne bestow the city of Rome, and great temporal power on the pope ?

A. He did ; and these gifts were never wholly resumed till the present time, when after the lapse of 1000 years, Bonaparte as *pretended* successor to Charlemagne, thought proper to claim the inheritance.

21. Q. How long did the posterity of Charlemagne fill the throne ?

A. Till 987 ; when Hugh Capet, a potent chief, obtained possession of the sovereign power ; and thus founded the third dynasty of kings in this country.

22. Q. Name some of the most memorable events which took place in the succeeding reigns.

A. The Crusades, which commenced in the reign of Philip I. at the persuasion of Peter the Hermit, and with the approbation of pope Urban; the institution of Parliaments, under the reign of Philip IV. surnamed the Fair, who left an only daughter, and in whom, in consequence of the Salic law, which excludes females, the direct line of Capet ended, and Philip de Valois, the next male heir, was raised to the throne in 1328; the claim made to the French crown by Edward III. of England, and the battle of Cressy, gained by that monarch.

23. Q. Was this claim allowed?

A. Henry V. of England, having gained the battle of Agincourt, in 1420, a treaty was concluded, by which his son, the unfortunate Henry VI. was crowned king of France, at Paris; but towards the close of that century, the French recovered from the English all their possessions in that country, much to the happiness of both nations.

24. Q. In whose reign did Joan of Arc live?

A. This pretended prophetess, who was afterwards inhumanly burnt for sorcery, distinguished herself in the reign of Charles VII. and was principally instrumental in delivering her country from the English.

25. Q. Did not civil commotions agitate France soon after this period ?

A. For thirty years, France was harassed by civil wars, which began in the reign of Francis II. and which were occasioned by attempts to extirpate the Protestants, or Hugonots, as they were called. At length, in the reign of Charles IX. religious fury broke out in all its violence, and on the eve of St. Bartholomew, 1572, about 70,000 Protestants were murdered by the order of that execrable monster.

26. Q. In whom ended the line of Valois ?

A. In Henry III. when Henry IV. of the house of Bourbon, ascended the throne, and proving one of the best and most amiable of princes, justly obtained the title of Great ; but fell by the hand of a fanatic, in 1610.

27. Q. When was absolute government established in France ?

A. In the reign of Louis XIII. his minister Richlieu, in order to put an end to the disorders which prevailed, had recourse to this bold measure : and the fetters which had been forged, were riveted under Louis XIV. a man of the most restless spirit, and unbounded ambition ; but, who, after a series of defeats by the English and their confederates, was obliged to conclude the peace of Rhyswick.

28. Q. Who succeeded Louis XIV.

A. This prince, who, notwithstanding his ambition, had some great and splendid qualities, was succeeded by his great-grandson, Louis XV. an effeminate monarch ; and upon his demise in 1774, his grandson Louis XVI. mounted the throne, and expiated the crimes and follies of his predecessors, by falling under the stroke of the guillotine, Jan. 21, 1793 ; while a few months after, his queen, Maria Antoinetta of Austria, shared

the same fate, in consequence of one of the most tremendous revolutions that had ever agitated and afflicted the human race.

29. Q. What happened after this?

A. Royalty being abolished, and Christianity abjured, a republic was established, which waged a successful war with the principal powers of Europe, at the same time that it was torn with intestine divisions, and disgraced by atrocities that make the heart shudder to contemplate.

30. Q. Was the republic of long duration?

A. After various modifications, in which the name of liberty was prostituted to the most unworthy purposes of faction, and deluges of blood had been spilt, it having been found that the theories of a free government which had been formed, were incompatible with practice, Bonaparte, a successful and enterprising general of the revolution, seized on the executive power under the title of first Consul, and associated two oth-

ers with him, in name, but without authority.

31. Q. Was he satisfied with this ?

A. No. He assumed the title of Emperor of the French, and king of Italy, established a military government, restored the profession of Christianity in France, and many civil institutions, which the frenzy of the revolution had abolished ; he carried his arms from one side of the continent of Europe to the other, and dictated terms of peace to every country, except Great Britain ; and in short, like Attila, who was named the scourge of God, seemed destined to effect some great purposes of Providence, which are at present inscrutable to mortals.

The crowned heads of Europe, formed an alliance against France, in 1814 ; after many battles being fought with various success, Bonaparte was at length compelled to abdicate the regal dignity in 1815, and Louis XVIII. the present king, was raised to the

throne. Bonaparte is now held a captive on the island of St. Helena.

England.

32. Q. How many grand epochs are there in the history of England?

A. Six. The Roman invasion, the establishment of the Saxons, the introduction of Christianity, the Norman conquest, the Reformation, and the Revolution.

Ireland.

33. Q. By whom was Ireland first peopled?

A. This is wholly lost in fable and tradition. The Irish antiquaries carry their history up to 500 years before the Christian era. Certain it is, that Christianity was early introduced here, and that learning was not unknown among the Irish, in what are called the dark ages.

34. How was this island governed?

A. By a number of petty kings, the dis-

union of whom, made them an easy prey to invaders. The Danes frequently made incursions and settlements. Henry II. of England, in 1172, annexed Ireland to his dominions, by the submission of its chiefs, though it continued to have a parliament of its own till the commencement of the present century, when it became part of the united kingdom.

Scotland.

35. Q. By whom was Scotland first peopled?

A. On this subject historians are not agreed, though they all admit the Scotch to be a very ancient nation. We find, however, that in this country, were early, two distinct tribes, the Scots, or men of the hills, and the Picts, or men of the plains, who were united into one monarchy by Kenneth II. about the middle of the ninth century, when *Scotland* became the name of the whole kingdom.

36. Q. Were there not frequent wars between Scotland and England ?

A. They were not only frequent, but bloody, to the misery and ruin of both nations.

37. Q. Did not Edward I. of England attempt to annex Scotland to his dominions ?

A. Availing himself of the dissensions of that part of the island, he made great progress in his designs ; but was baffled by Sir William Wallace, and by king Robert Bruce, who mounted the throne 1307.

38. Q. By whom was Robert Bruce succeeded ?

A. By his son, David, whom Edward III. took prisoner, and carried into England ; and was himself succeeded by Robert II. grandson of the great Robert Bruce, and the first of the house of Stuart.

39. Q. Mention any remarkable passages in the lives of his successors.

A. Robert III. was obliged to resign his government into the hands of the duke of

Albany. James I. who had been detained prisoner in England, on ascending the throne in 1421, behaved with great wisdom and policy, but was assassinated by his nobles. James II. was bold and absolute, but improved his kingdom. James IV. who was much beloved by his people, was slain in the rash engagement at Flodden Field. James V. had a long but turbulent reign, and was succeeded by Mary, whose beauty, intrigues, and misfortunes, form an ample page in history, and who was beheaded in England, 1587.

40. Q. By whom was Mary succeeded ?

A. By her son, James VI. of Scotland ; and who, on the death of queen Elizabeth, mounted the throne of England, by the title of James I. from which period, both parts of the island have obeyed one sovereign.

41. Q. But were the kingdoms united ?

A. Not till the reign of queen Anne, in 1707, when England and Scotland were con-

solidated into one kingdom, under the name of Great Britain.

Spain.

42. Q. What revolutions took place in Spain before the different kingdoms were united ?

A. On the decline of the Roman power, Spain became a prey to the Suevi, the Vandals, and the Alani. Adolphus, king of the Goths, subdued them, and founded the kingdom of the Visigoths, in 411, which continued till 712, when Spain was conquered by the Saracens. At length, in the 15th century, an union of the different states or kingdoms, took place under Ferdinand and Isabella, in whose reign, and under whose auspices, Columbus discovered America.

43. Q. Who succeeded Ferdinand ?

A. His grandson, Charles V. who after filling Europe with his fame, resigned the crown to his son, Philip II. a gloomy and vindictive tyrant, who united Portugal to his

dominions, but who lost the seven provinces of the Netherlands, in 1579.

44. Q. Name the principal events in the reigns of his successors.

A. Under Philip IV. Portugal rebelled, and established its independence. Under his successor, Philip V. the first of the house of Bourbon, extensive wars involved Europe, which were composed by the treaty of Utrecht. Charles III. entered into the famous family compact, and waged an unequal war with England. Charles IV. at first made a remonstrance against the French revolutionists; but changing sides, he became a vassal to France, till Bonaparte, taking advantage of his weakness, carried both him and his son, now styled Ferdinand VII. prisoners into France, and gave the kingdom to his brother Joseph, who has since been deposed, and Ferdinand restored to his throne.

Portugal.

45. Q. What is the present situation of Portugal?

A. This country, the ancient Lusitania, has undergone many revolutions, and has always had to maintain an unequal struggle for its independence. The reigning family, driven out by the generals of Bonaparte, has been forced to take shelter in Brazil, where the throne is now fixed.

Sweden.

46. Q. Does the early history of Sweden present any thing remarkable ?

A. As is usual among uncivilized nations, we find little very interesting, except revolutions and massacres. At length Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, were united under Margaret Waldemar, by the treaty of Calmar, 1387.

47. Q. Did not the Swedes recover their national independence ?

A. Yes. Gustavus Vasa, a descendant of the ancient kings, recovered the liberty of his country, in 1544, and the states made the crown hereditary in his family.

48. Q. What remarkable events distinguished the reigns of his successors ?

A. Gustavus Adolphus, a most illustrious prince, was killed at the battle of Lutzen, 1632 ; his daughter Christiana, resigned the crown in favour of her cousin, Charles Gustavus ; Charles XII. one of the most extraordinary men that the world ever saw, closed his mortal career at the siege of Frederichshall, in 1718 ; Gustavus III. though he had sworn to preserve the liberties of the Swedes, in violation of his oath, rendered himself absolute, and was assassinated at a masked ball, in 1792. On his death, his son Gustavus IV. ascended the throne, but was in 1810 deposed, and Charles XIII. succeeded, who dying in 1818, left the crown to Bernadotte, the present king, who reigns under the title of Charles XIV.

Denmark.

47. Q. Is the early history of Denmark interesting ?

A. The history of the Danes at an early period presents nothing but piracy and rapine, and is necessarily obscure till the reign of Margaret Waldemar, who united in her own person, the crowns of Sweden, Denmark and Norway; though the former was again separated from the latter, about the beginning of the sixteenth century.

50. **Q.** Who is the present sovereign of Denmark?

A. Christian VIII. who both as king, and as regent in the life of his imbecile father, has had the address to preserve his country in a great measure, in peace.

Poland.

51. **Q.** Is Poland now a kingdom?

A. No. It was partitioned in 1795, under the reign of Stanislaus Augustus, by the courts of Russia, Berlin, and Vienna; and, since that time has undergone farther changes, by the victories of the French over the Austrians and the Prussians.

52. Q. Was not its form of government very faulty ?

A. Being an elective monarchy, its nobles were constantly the dupes of foreign or domestic intrigues ; yet, with all its defects, under John Sobieski, the greatest of its sovereigns, it made a distinguished figure among the European powers.

Prussia.

53. Q. When was Prussia erected into a kingdom ?

A. This country, formerly a marquisate, and then an electorate, was raised to a regal government, in 1701, by Frederick, son to Frederick William, surnamed the Great, who had paved the way to the attainment of this dignity, and who was succeeded by his son of the same name, a wise and politic prince.

54. Q. By whom was this Frederick William succeeded ?

A. By his son, Frederick II. a great and

warlike king, who filled all Europe with the terror of his arms, while he cultivated the arts of peace occasionally, with no less success. He left the throne to his nephew, Frederick William II. a weak and unprincipled prince, who dying in 1797, was succeeded by Frederick William III.

55. Q. What is the state of this country at present?

A. The Prussians were unfortunate in the coalitions against France, A. D. 1792, and 1805, and were reduced to subjection under that nation in 1807; but by the perseverance and courage of the gallant Blucher in opposing Bonaparte, they regained their former independence.

Russia.

56. Q. Is not Russia a new country?

A. Russia, formerly known by the old name of Muscovy, is comparatively a new country, and did not reach any considerable degree of civilization, till about a century

ago ; though its power and resources now entitle it to a high rank among the European nations.

57. Q By whom was the title of Czar of this country first assumed ?

A. By John Basilowitz, in 1486, after having liberated Russia from the dominion of the Tartars.

58. Q. Does the Russian history begin to be interesting from this period ?

A. By no means. We read only of tyrannical governors and barbarous subjects, during a succession of reigns ; for it was not till the time of Peter the Great, that Russia began to assume its consequence.

59. Q Will you mention some of the passages in the life of Peter the Great ?

A. It would be impossible to give even an outline of his history. That he might improve his people, and instruct them in the knowledge and arts of other nations, he travelled into the different countries of Europe, and worked as a commonship-carpenter, both

in Holland and England. He was the first that assumed the title of emperor; he built Petersburg, which he made the capital, instead of Moscow, extended his dominions by various conquests; and, in a word, was one of the most extraordinary men that ever appeared on the theatre of the world.

60. Q. Who was his successor?

A. His widow, Catherine, whom he had promoted to his throne, though a poor peasant, on account of the talents she displayed; and she proved worthy of his choice.

61. Q. By whom was Catharine succeeded?

A. By Peter II. grandson of Peter the Great, who performed nothing very remarkable; but who was followed by Ann, duchess of Courland, an empress of considerable energy of character, and whose reign was successful.

62. Q. Name the successor of Ann.

A. John, son to her niece, Catherine; but who being deposed and murdered in

1740, Elizabeth, second daughter of Peter the Great, was elevated to the throne, and swayed the sceptre with glory.

63. Q. By whom was Elizabeth succeeded?

A. By her nephew, the duke of Holstein, who took the title of Peter III. but was soon deposed by his consort, Catharine, and put to death.

64. Q. What happened then?

A. A faction which she had taken care to form, raised Catharine, the second of that name, to the throne, which she filled with glory, as far as conquest, and national improvement, warrant the expression; but her vices as a woman, were degrading to her sex, and the policy by which her relation with foreign powers was regulated, was often detestable. Yet it must be observed, that Russia has generally been most fortunate under female reigns.

65. Q. Who was Catharine II.'s successor?

A. Her son, Paul Petrowitz, who, from natural weakness, or depravity of heart, acting the part of a capricious tyrant, was deposed and murdered, 1801, and his son, Alexander Paulowitz, raised to the throne.

66. Q. What is the present state of this empire ?

A. After frequent struggles with France, in which the contest was various, they were in the year 1812, invaded by Bonaparte at the head of an immense army. He victoriously advanced to Moscow, which he was quickly obliged to evacuate ; and in his retreat, he was so furiously attacked by the Russians, that the greater part of his army was destroyed, and himself was eventually obliged to fly to France, whither the emperor Alexander and his allies pursued him, and put an end to his domination.

Turkey.

67. Q. What is the origin of the Turks ?

A. The Turks and Huns, who were de-

scendants of the ancient Scythians, having established themselves in a track of Asia, called Georgia, or Turcomania, Othman, one of their princes, to whom the Ottoman empire owes its name and establishment, seized on Bythinia; and fixing the seat of his government at Prussia, assumed the title of Sultan in 1300.

68. Q. Of what religion are the Turks?

A. Mahometans; so called from Mahomet, an impostor, born at Mecca in Arabia, and who, in the year of Christ 622, declared himself the greatest and last of the prophets that God would send.

69. Q. Were his doctrines well received?

A. By promising his followers the speedy conquest and possession of *this* world, and a paradise of delight in the *next*, but more particularly by the sword, he extended his influence; and his tenets are now professed, not only in Turkey, but in Arabia, Persia,

India, Barbary, Egypt, and in short, over a large portion of the old world.

70. Q. Who are the Janizaries, who are so often mentioned in Turkish history ?

A. They are the guards of the Sultan's person, and were established by Amurath, grandson of Othman.

71. Q. By whom was Amurath succeeded ?

A. By his son, Bajazet, surnamed Ilderim, or the Thunderbolt, who, after gaining many splendid victories, was at last defeated and taken prisoner by Timur Bec, or Tamerlane, a prince of the Tartars.

72. Q. What distinguished the reign of Mahomet II.

A. This Sultan, justly named the Great, besieged and took Constantinople, which has since been the seat of the Turkish empire ; and thus put an end to the Eastern empire of the Romans.

73. Q. Was not Selim I. a warlike prince ?

A. He certainly extended the limits of the empire by the conquest of Egypt, and several countries of the East.

74. Q. Is not Solyman II. celebrated in history ?

A. This prince, who received the appellation of the Magnificent, was unquestionably one of the greatest and most accomplished of all the Sultans. He conquered the island of Rhodes, and added Hungary to his dominions, though not permanently. Selim II. his son and successor, distinguished himself likewise, by besieging and taking Cyprus and Tunis.

75. Q. Was the reign of Amurath II. distinguished ?

A. He extended his dominions in various quarters ; but with him the general good fortune and power of the Turks seems to have declined.

76. Q. Were not some of his successors brought to a violent end ?

A. In Turkey, princes and subjects, have

frequently been put to death. The Janzaries, who have long been the terror of those who oppose their interests, and whose dangerous ascendancy will probably end in the total ruin of the state, have more than once, made and unmade Sultans.

77. Q. Did not Turkey suffer much from the Russians ?

A. Under Mahomet V. and Mustapha III. the Russians have prevailed, and considerable sacrifices of territory have been made; nor has the tide of ill fortune, which has so long attended the Turkish affairs, yet turned, but the whole fabric of empire seems hastening to ruin and desolation.

78. Q. Have there not been some revolutions lately in Turkey ?

A. Selim III. who had filled the throne from 1789, was deposed by Mustapha IV. in 1807; who, by another revolution in 1808, was put to death, the Sultan Selim killed, and Mahomet, raised to the dignity of Sultan. The influence of France has for some years

had a fatal effect on the Turkish councils, and probably will precipitate the long expected catastrophe.

Of America.

79. Q. Who first discovered the continent of America ?

A. It was first discovered by Christopher Columbus, who made three voyages to that part of the globe, at the end of the fifteenth century. It received its name from a Florentine adventurer, named Amerigo Vespucci, who published the first account of it in 1499.

80. Q. What are the principal divisions of America ?

A. Canada, Nova Scotia, United States, Florida, Mexico, Peru and Chili, Brazil, and Guiana. The French in 1525, took possession of Canada, but did not establish a colony, till A. D. 1608 ; when they founded the city of Quebec. The French were dispossessed of this territory, by the English,

under general Wolfe, at the battle of Quebec, in 1759. James the first of England, conferred Nova Scotia on Sir William Alexander in 1622. From that time, to 1710, it was possessed sometimes by the French, and at other times by the English, to whom it at present belongs.

81. Q. What nation peopled the United States?

A. The United States were peopled by the English at different periods. They were formerly subject to their mother country; but after a long and destructive war, which commenced 1776, they secured their independence. They again declared war against England in 1812; in this contest, both nations suffered much, and gained little.

82. Q. When was Louisiana discovered?

The French discovered it in 1683, and kept possession of it till 1803, when it was incorporated in the United States. Florida was discovered by the Spaniards, in 1513,

but was not subdued till 25 years afterwards. They sold it to the United States in the present year.

83. Q. Who discovered Mexico ?

The Spaniards sent an expedition under the command of Ferdinando Cortes, in 1517, to Mexico, which had been discovered by their countrymen in the preceding year. After a war of three year's duration, they completely subdued it; and it remains in their possession at the present time.

84. Q. When did the Spaniards take possession of Peru and Chili ?

A. Three adventurers, of whom Francisco Pizarro was the chief, having been informed that a wealthy empire existed at the south-east of Darien, undertook to subdue this country with only 164 men, without proper arms. In about 20 years, they made themselves masters of it, and rendered it subject to Spain, 1548.

85. Q. When was Brazil discovered ?

A. Alvarez Cabral, a Portuguese, acci-

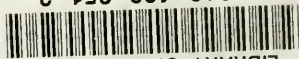
dentally discovered it in a voyage to the East Indies, A. D. 1500. About 50 years afterwards they built the city of St. Salvador. It has remained under the power of Portugal ever since ; and when the French invaded that country in 1807, the royal family and court retired hither for safety. There is very little known of Guiana ; it is subject to Portugal.

The South Americans have been struggling many years against Spanish tyranny ; and much blood has been shed in the cause of liberty. Some of the provinces are now declared independent, and the rest will no doubt, soon follow their example.





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